

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
September 11, 1951

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I apologize for the long delay in answering your letter regarding our E. coli isolates. However, I have just returned from a month's vacation and have only recently started to think in terms of the pursuit of scientific truths - and the lag period is of considerable duration.

The isolation of highly S^r variants from mice treated with low doses of streptomycin may be related to the lower doses of x-ray, which are now being administered. This reduction in ray dose permits a lower ^{226r} survival period and would, I presume, increase the possibility for successive mutations to higher levels of resistance to the drug.

Since the isolates which were sent to you represent quite a few separate experiments, I do not think we have an "epidemic" of S^r variants in our mouse colony. This is supported by the fact that the controls continue to remain S^+ . However, this is an interesting observation, which I shall follow up at the first opportunity.

I have a few strains of E. coli which were isolated in July, but prefer to hold them until I can get enough to be worth shipping.

Thank you for the reprints which arrived last week. I am enclosing a set of our current publications on the X-ray studies, and one or two others which you may not have.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie Bohnke
Marjorie Bohnke

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin